

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 - Cancelled

10. (original) Actuating, guiding and enclosing device for a retractable system for stowing away propulsion components for a vessel of the type comprising:

a hull (1; 101) provided with an enlarged longitudinal housing (2, 11; 102) to receive in a retracted condition the propulsion assembly (3, 4; 103, 104) of the vessel in such a way that the said housing (2, 11; 102) can be enclosed by means such that in the closed condition they form a surface without any break in the continuity of the said hull (1; 101), characterized by

an articulated assembly comprising at least a first pair of upper arms (118, 118') and a second pair of lower arms (110, 110') articulated together in such a way as to form an articulated parallelogram (118, 118'; 30 110, 110'), this assembly being capable of moving in a vertical direction from an upper position retracted within the said hull (1; 101) in which the said articulated parallelogram is in the folded condition and a lower extended position in which the said articulated parallelogram (118, 118'; 110, 110') is in a deployed condition substantially outside the said hull (1; 101), the upper articulation (116) of the said articulated parallelogram being connected to the lower end of actuating means (9; 115) which can be moved vertically and connected at its lower articulation (109) to the bearing (7; 105) supporting the shaft (3; 103) of the propeller (4; 104) through a coupling (107, 108) which tilts in the

longitudinal plane of the vessel and of one piece with the said supporting bearing (7; 105),

guide means (112, 112') substantially in the shape of an upside-down V provided in the forward and after walls of the said part (111) of the said leaktight housing (11; 102) designed to receive and guide tenons (114, 114') which project longitudinally from the wedge-shaped members (121, 121') incorporated in the lateral articulations of the said articulated parallelogram to guide the said tenons (114, 114') during part of the descending course of the said assembly of the articulated arms (118, 118'; 110, 110') in order to cause progressive opening of the said articulated parallelogram as the said actuating means (9; 115) descend,

securing means comprising the aforesaid lateral articulation members (121, 121') each cooperating with locking members (113, 113') provided with grooves (123, 123') having a shape matching that of the said wedge shaped members (121, 121') and of one piece with the sides of the said hull (1; 101), and

immobilizing means comprising the said upper arms (118, 118') which with the continued descent of the said actuating means (9; 115) take up an over-centred position while the said members (121, 121') provided with wedge-shaped edges (122, 122') are caused to bear tightly against the said grooves (123, 123') of the said enclosure members (113, 113'), the said lower arms (110, 110') then acting as a supporting frame for the propulsion assembly of the vessel and immobilizing it in an operating position.

11. (original) Device according to claim 10, characterized in that the lengths of the said upper articulated arms (118, 118') are adjustable.

12. (previously presented) Device according to claim 10, characterised in that the change from the folded condition of the said device to the deployed condition takes place keeping the said articulated arms (118, 118', 110, 110') substantially in a vertical plane transverse to the vessel.

13. (original) Device according to claim 10, characterised in that the articulated assembly comprises only one pair of upper arms (118, 118') and in

that the supporting frame (8, 16; 110) comprises a triangular member which is of one piece with the bearing (7; 105) supporting the shaft (3; 103) of the said propeller (4; 104), the said supporting frame (8, 16; 110) being mounted in such a way that it can be caused to rotate by the actuating means about a horizontal axis (125) transverse to the said hull (1; 101) between a condition in which it is retracted within the said hull (1; 101) and an extended condition substantially outside the same and in that the change from the folded condition of the articulated assembly to the deployed condition takes place in a plane which is substantially longitudinal to the vessel in a manner which is synchronized with the change in the said supporting frame from its retracted condition to its extended condition in order to lock it to the latter in the operating condition of the said device.